



PUBLIC NOTICE

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Common Carrier Bureau Announces Release Of September Version of Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet (FCC Form 499-S) For Contributions to the Universal Service Support Mechanisms

DA 00-1735
CC Docket No. 98-171

In this Public Notice, the Common Carrier Bureau (Bureau) announces the release of the September 2000 version of the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet, FCC Form 499-S ("September 2000 Worksheet") and accompanying instructions. All contributors to the federal universal service support mechanisms -- including every telecommunications carrier providing interstate telecommunications and other providers of interstate telecommunications for a fee -- must file the September 2000 Worksheet,¹ except that contributors whose contributions would be *de minimis* under the Commission's rules need not file the September worksheet.² Data filed on the September 2000 Worksheet will be used to calculate contributions to the universal service support mechanisms.

On July 14, 1999, the Commission amended its rules so that contributors to the universal service support mechanisms, the Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) Fund, and the cost recovery mechanisms for numbering administration and local number portability need only file the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet for the purpose of determining their contributions to these mechanisms.³ As an attachment to that order, we released the initial version of the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet. On July 30, 1999, a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit issued a decision⁴ affecting the assessment and recovery of universal service contributions. In the *Universal Service Sixteenth Order on Reconsideration*, the Commission adopted modifications to its rules consistent with those portions of the court's

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 54.711(a).

² 47 C.F.R. § 54.708.

³ 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Streamlined Contributor Reporting Requirements Associated with Administration of Telecommunications Relay Services, North American Numbering Plan, Local Number Portability, and Universal Service Support Mechanisms, Report and Order, FCC 99-175, CC Docket No. 98-171 (rel. July 14, 1999) (*Contributor Reporting Requirements Order*) (also adopting an April version of the worksheet that will be used to calculate contributions to the TRS Fund and the cost recovery mechanisms for numbering administration and local number portability, as well as the universal service support mechanisms). Thus, all telecommunications carriers will file the April worksheet, whether or not they meet the *de minimis* threshold for purposes of contributing to the universal service support mechanisms.

⁴ *Texas Office of Public Utility Counsel v. FCC*, 183 F.3d 393 (5th Cir. 1999).

decision concerning the assessment and recovery of universal service contributions.⁵ To ensure consistency with the Fifth Circuit's decision and the Commission's Order on Reconsideration, the September 2000 Worksheet being released today includes minor modifications.⁶ Most notably, the September 2000 Worksheet requires filers to report separately their interstate and international revenue, so that the administrators will be able to calculate contributions to the universal service support mechanisms in compliance with these decisions.⁷

Information filed on the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheets will be compiled and used to calculate the universal service contribution factors that will be used as the actual basis for contributions. Contribution factors will be announced by Public Notice. The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) will bill contributors directly based on the information filed in the September 2000 Worksheets and the publicly-released contribution factors. Payments must be made by the date listed on USAC's bills.

Contributors must use the September 2000 Worksheet for their filings due on September 1, 2000. Copies of the September 2000 Worksheet (FCC Form 499-S) and instructions may be downloaded from the Commission's Forms Web Page (www.fcc.gov/formpage.html). Copies also may be obtained by calling the fax-on-demand line at (202) 418-2830. Finally, copies may be obtained from the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) at (973) 560-4400.

For further information, contact Suzanne McCrary, Jim Lande or Scott Bergmann, Industry Analysis Division, Common Carrier Bureau, at (202) 418-0940.

⁵ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, Sixteenth Order on Reconsideration, FCC 99-290, CC Docket No. 96-45 (rel. Oct. 8, 1999).

⁶ *See Contributor Reporting Requirements Order*, ¶¶ 39-40 (delegating authority to the Chief of the Common Carrier Bureau to make changes to the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet). *See also* 47 C.R.R. §§ 52.17(b), 52.32(b), 54.711(c), 64.604(c)(4)(iii)(B).

⁷ These modifications are consistent with those made to the April 2000 Worksheet. *See Common Carrier Bureau Announces Release of Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet (FCC Form 499-A) For April 1, 2000 Filing By All Telecommunications Carriers*, Public Notice, DA 00-471, CC Docket No. 98-171 (rel. Mar. 1, 2000).